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Ministry of Natural Resources

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MINISTRY OVERVIEW

Ministry Vision, Mission and Mandate

The Ministry of Natural Resources is the steward of Ontario's provincial parks, forests, fisheries, wildlife, mineral aggregates, petroleum resources and the Crown land and waters that make up 87 per cent of the province.

The ministry envisions a healthy environment that is naturally diverse and supports a high quality of life for the people of Ontario through sustainable development. The ministry's mission is to manage our natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way to ensure that they are available for the enjoyment and use of future generations. The ministry is committed to conserving biodiversity and using natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Our Sustainable Future, the ministry's strategic direction document, outlines the following as MNR's mandated activities.

Forest Management

- Provide leadership and oversight in the management of Ontario's forests; Crown forest management planning and resource allocation; compliance monitoring, auditing and public reporting on Ontario's forests. Champions for Ontario's forest, forest products sector and forest-dependent communities.

Fish and Wildlife Management

- Provide leadership and oversight in the coordination of MNR's biodiversity strategy, including management of Ontario's fish and wildlife resources, species at risk and invasive species; Great Lakes management; fish culture and stocking; resource monitoring, assessment and allocation; research, food safety and wildlife disease control; enhancing fishing and hunting opportunities.

Lands and Waters Management

- Lead the management of Crown lands, water resources, mineral aggregates, and oil, gas, and salt resources. Includes supporting tourism and economic development, resource valuation and allocation, flood management, and low water/drought management. Promote renewable energy by making Crown land available, and implement the Great Lakes Charter Annex.

Ontario Parks

- Deliver Ontario's Parks and Protected Areas program, including: protection and management of provincially significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments; provincial parks operations; provision of tourism opportunities, natural heritage education; planning and management of parks and protected areas; policy leadership on conservation reserves; monitoring, auditing, and public reporting on Ontario's parks and protected areas.

Aviation and Forest Fire Management

- Provide leadership and program delivery for the protection of people, property and communities affected by forest fires, floods, and other natural resource emergencies. Includes planning and delivery of MNR's emergency management program and aviation services for the Ontario government.

Geographic Information

- Provide direction for the management of information assets to assist the ministry in meeting its business objectives. The Geographic Information program provides corporate leadership to the ministry in the development and application of geographic information for natural resource management and decision-making. It also provides basic land information and an infrastructure to improve the sharing of information for the Ontario government to realize the strategic value of its information investments.

Field Services Support

- Lead the provision of service delivery and operational implementation of natural resource management programs; provide direct client services to the public and resource-based industry sectors across Ontario; lead professional law enforcement of resource statutes; lead MNR's efforts for aboriginal involvement in resource management and decision-making.

Ministry Administration

- Lead land use planning; ensure the provision of strategic management leadership and advice, legal counsel, policy development, communications and administrative services in support of business areas.

Key Priorities and Results

Our Sustainable Future also outlines five MNR strategic goals that support government priorities. The ministry will:

- enhance a healthy natural environment for Ontarians
- promote economic growth for Ontario communities
- protect public health and environmental safety from natural and human-made hazards, such as forest fires, floods, drought and erosion
- facilitate stewardship, partnerships and community involvement
- achieve organizational excellence for improved public service.

In pursuing these goals, the ministry contributes to the achievement of the government's key commitments, priorities and results.

Meeting Government Commitments

The government is working to grow the economy and seeks to build a competitive business environment by promoting jobs and investment, ensuring a reliable energy supply and offering modern, efficient public service. Through implementation of the Ontario Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy, MNR seeks to foster a competitive business environment by promoting jobs and investment in the resource sector. Through its Northern Boreal Initiative, the ministry is helping several First Nations in the far north carry out land use planning and identify forestry-based economic opportunities, aiming to create forestry employment and give far north First Nations communities a leadership role in sustainable forest management. In addition, MNR is continuing to increase opportunities for energy generation from wind, water, geothermal and bio-energy.

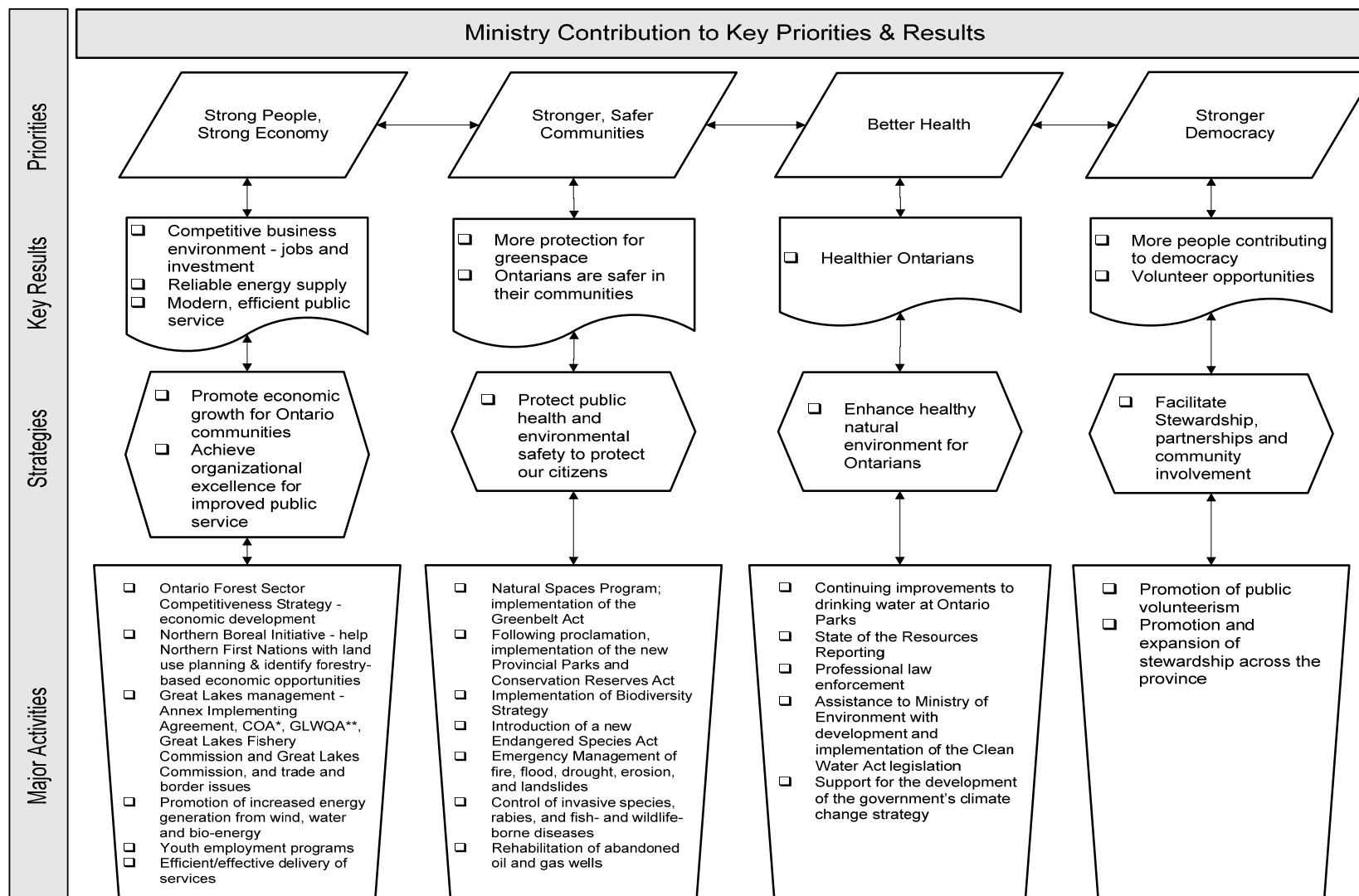
The government is committed to stronger, safer communities by protecting more greenspace and making Ontarians safer in their communities. In pursuing its goal of a healthy natural environment for Ontarians, MNR is providing more protection for greenspace and is ensuring source water protection. The ministry is also putting Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy into action. As part of the strategy, MNR is playing a role in helping to implement the Greenbelt Act and in promoting the Natural Spaces program. The new Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act will be implemented. The ministry will also continue to participate in and influence Great Lakes management. To make Ontarians safer in their communities, MNR protects people, property and communities from natural resource emergencies. MNR works to make Ontarians safe from natural resource hazards such as forest fires and floods. MNR controls rabies and wildlife diseases, rehabilitates abandoned oil and gas wells, and makes continued improvements to drinking water at Ontario Parks.

The government is committed to fostering healthier Ontarians. MNR is helping to develop and implement source water protection through policy and the Clean Water Act in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment. MNR will support the Ministry of the Environment in identifying a climate change strategy and implementing

approved climate change initiatives. The ministry is also continuing its State of Resources Reporting, a public report that outlines factors affecting the resource, condition or health of our natural resources and the appropriate management response by both government and society.

The government is committed to strengthening democracy and promoting volunteer opportunities. By continuing to promote and expand stewardship across the province, as well as fostering more public volunteerism in a range of outdoor and conservation programs, MNR is contributing to the achievement of that goal.

In pursuing its five strategic goals in each mandated activity, MNR continues to be well-aligned to support the government's key commitments, priorities and results. The ministry's commitment to promoting economic growth for Ontario communities and achieving organizational excellence for improved public service helps strengthen Ontario's economy. In enhancing a healthy natural environment for Ontarians and protecting people, property and communities from natural and human-made hazards, the ministry is helping build stronger, safer communities. Working with the Ministry of the Environment, MNR is helping to ensure safe and clean water in order to contribute to healthier Ontarians, and assisting in the development of a climate change strategy. As the ministry facilitates stewardship, partnerships and community involvement, it is contributing to a stronger democracy.

Diagram 1: Ministry Contribution to Government Priorities


* Canada Ontario Agreement. ** Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Ministry Programs

Forest Management

The ministry will continue to lead implementation of the Ontario Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy, which was announced in 2005. This includes financial capital assistance initiatives, proposed changes to several regulations under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act and implementing the Northern Pulp and Paper Mills Electricity Transition program, to strengthen the competitive business environment and attract investment in an environmentally sustainable forest sector in Ontario. In addition to fostering fibre and energy efficiencies as well as cogeneration, the strategy includes enhancements to the Forest Resources Inventory program and the start-up of the Ontario Wood Promotion Program to promote and enhance the value-added manufacturing business within the industry. MNR will continue to conduct research and develop partnerships for forest bio-mass and bio-refinery developments.

MNR will continue to position Ontario to enhance market access and maintain its competitive position by implementing the softwood lumber agreement signed in 2006, including planning for and beginning administration of new provincial export control measures.

Work will continue to revise and consolidate the current 36 forest management guidelines into a new suite of five forest management guides to provide direction on planning and implementing various forest management practices. Implementation of the Provincial Wood Supply Strategy will also continue.

Fish and Wildlife Management

The ministry led a process that brought together a broad spectrum of contributors, including industry, environmental and conservation groups, government agencies and members of the public to develop Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy. The strategy is an overarching plan to protect Ontario's rich natural heritage of plants, animals and ecosystems and use our natural resources sustainably. Government actions contributing to Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy include: passing a new Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, reviewing Ontario's Endangered Species Act, implementing the Greenbelt Protection Act and more. MNR will implement the new Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, following proclamation. Through the involvement of people from across Ontario, the strategy will help ensure clean air and water, abundant wildlife and places for recreation.

MNR will work with the Ministry of the Environment to develop a climate change strategy that outlines initiatives to help address, mitigate the effects of, and assist Ontarians to adapt to, climate change.

Work will continue to implement the new Ecological Framework for Recreational Fisheries Management in Ontario. New ecologically based fishing regulations that will further protect the province's biodiversity will be finalized.

MNR intends to implement a new species at risk program if proposed legislation is passed by the Legislature. Funding of \$18 million over four years is set aside to promote stewardship activities protecting essential habitat and greenspace. The ministry will also integrate international, national and provincial invasive species plans to address the threat posed by alien invasive species.

The ministry will continue to be vigilant in controlling rabies and other fish- and wildlife-borne diseases.

In MNR's Bear Wise program, the number of municipalities identified as being in bear country increased from 463 in 2005-06 to 577 in 2006-07. As a result, the percentage of participation by eligible municipalities for 2006-07 came in below target. However, the number of eligible municipalities participating in Bear Wise programs has been steadily increasing since 2004-05.

MNR will continue to work toward making fish and wildlife licences available through Point of Sale terminals at licence issuers in order to improve customer service, assist licence issuers and reduce administrative costs.

Lands and Waters Management

Work will continue with the Ministry of the Environment to implement, through proposed amendments to the Ontario Water Resources Act, and inform the public about the Great Lakes Charter Annex agreement. MNR is supporting the Ministry of the Environment in implementing the Clean Water Act, which received Royal Assent on October 19, 2006. In addition, MNR is providing support for pending renewal of the Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem and a review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

As the steward of Ontario's Crown land, MNR will support the government's renewable energy commitments through Crown land disposition and development for wind, waterpower, geothermal and other opportunities.

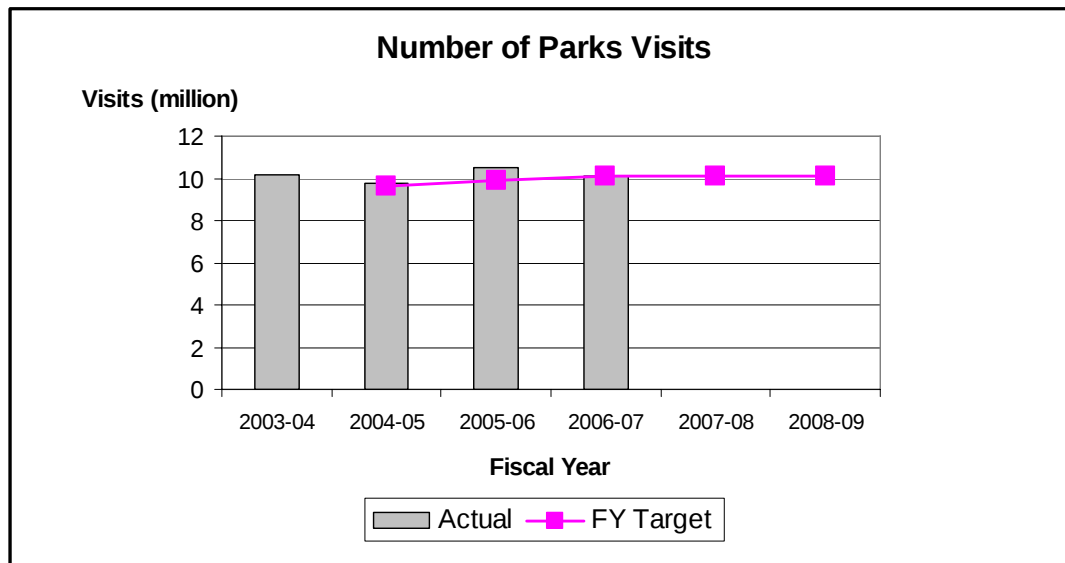
The decommissioning of abandoned oil and gas wells in the province will continue to ensure protection of the environment and local residents.

Ontario Parks

MNR will implement the new Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, once it is proclaimed, in order to ensure the permanent protection and ecological integrity of Ontario's provincial parks and conservation reserves. Through the legislation, the ministry will provide enhanced accountability, increased protection and streamlined legislation for parks and protected areas.

Consultation will begin on the development of a new protected areas planning manual. Continued improvements will also be made to drinking water systems at Ontario Parks.

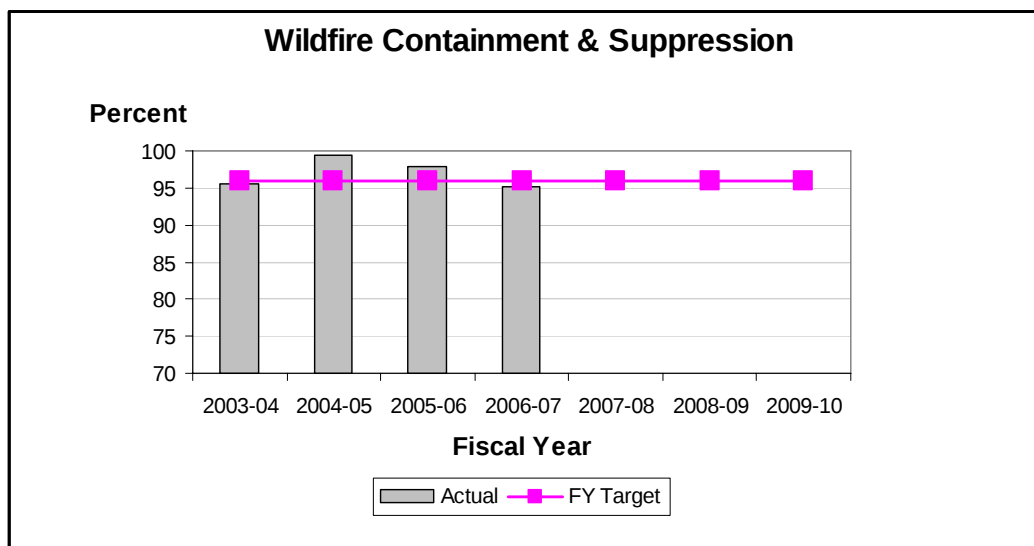
Parks visits have stayed relatively constant at about 10 million visits per year since 2003-04. Park visitation was down marginally in 2006-07 from 2005-06 due to cooler weather in May and June, and several severe storms that affected some parks in July. Poorer weather in September reduced park use by 30 per cent in day-use and 20 per cent in camping for the month.



Aviation and Forest Fire Management

MNR will maintain the protection of people, property and communities from forest fires, floods and other natural-resource emergencies. The ministry will also continue to implement the comprehensive level of emergency preparedness required under the Emergency Management Act.

MNR Wildfire Containment and Suppression has been above 95 per cent since 2003-04. Wildfire Containment and Suppression shows the percentage of fires that were either in a condition of "being held" by 12:00 local time the day after they were reported to MNR or were four hectares or less in size.



Geographic Information

MNR will continue to provide leadership and program delivery in the development and application of geographic information for natural resource management and decision-making. The ministry will also contribute to the government's Information and Information Technology initiative by making land information available through a suitable infrastructure. The Land and Resources Cluster will continue to develop integrated Information Technology infrastructure to facilitate and streamline government operations through electronic service delivery and enhance government service through e-business and e-government.

Field Services Support

The ministry will seek government policy direction to consult on and develop a framework for land use planning and development to direct conservation, development and growth in the Far North.

MNR will continue to implement the Natural Spaces program, a voluntary partnership program to help reduce loss of greenspace in southern Ontario by encouraging landowners to restore and protect natural areas on their properties. Stewardship will continue to be promoted across the south through this initiative.

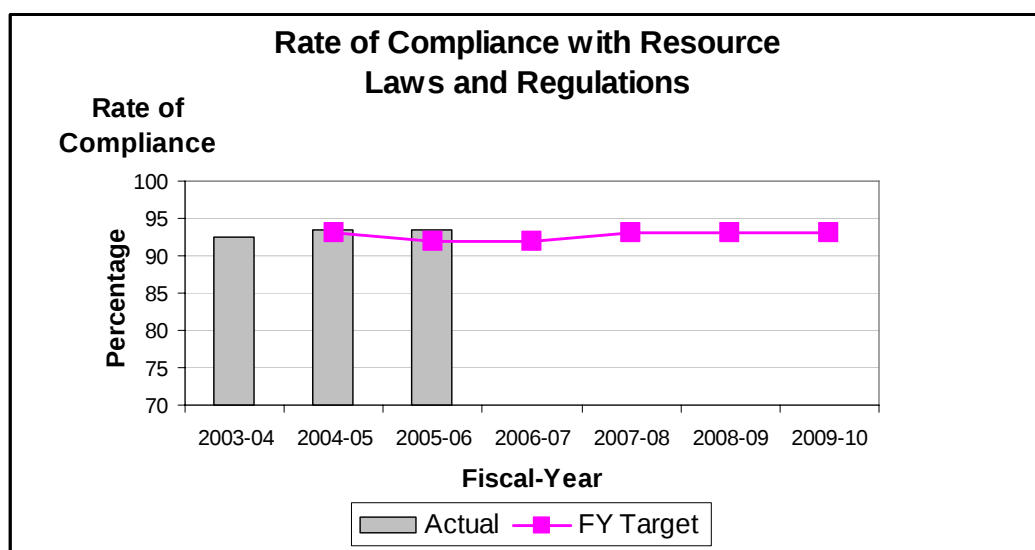
The ministry will work to expand stewardship to Northern Ontario. Through resource stewardship, MNR safeguards the public interest in Ontario's resources and acts as the steward of our natural legacy.

Under the Northern Boreal Initiative, the ministry is helping several First Nations in the far north carry out land use planning and identify forestry-based economic opportunities. This initiative aims to create forestry employment and give far north First Nations communities a leadership role in sustainable forest management. MNR continues to build internal capacity to meet the Aboriginal duty to consult guidelines.

MNR will enhance the safety of fish as a food source by supporting the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in the development and implementation of the Ontario Food Safety Strategy and in the transfer of responsibility for fish inspection to that ministry.

MNR will continue to integrate the front counter service provided in its various offices with Service Ontario.

The ministry continues to deliver professional law enforcement to protect Ontario's natural resources for present and future generations. The Rate of Compliance with Resource Laws and Regulations has remained relatively constant at over 92 per cent since 2003-04.



Ministry Administration

MNR is committed to supporting and assisting the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the ongoing implementation of the Greenbelt Act. The ministry is also supporting the work of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal in implementing the 25-year growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

As well, the ministry's administration program will continue to ensure the provision of strategic management leadership and advice, legal counsel, policy development, communications and administrative services, including information technology in support of business areas. MNR continues to implement an Employee Engagement Strategy as well as Talent Management to improve its ability to identify and effectively manage talent to meet its business needs.

Table 1: Performance Measures and Achievements by Program

Performance Measures	2004-05 <u>Achievement</u>	2005-06 <u>Achievement</u>	2006-07 <u>Target*</u>	2007-08 <u>Target</u>
Forest Management				
Percentage of Independent Forest Audits recommending Sustainable Forest Licence extension (without conditions)	100%	87%	85%	85%
New annual forest products sector capital investment stimulated through the Ontario Forest Products Sector Loan Guarantee Program and the Forest Sector Prosperity Fund (new measure in 2005-06)	n/a	\$4 million	\$400 million	\$300 million
Value-added Ontario forest products jobs per 1,000 cubic metres of provincial timber sales**	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Ontario Parks				
Number of parks visits	9.7 million	10.5 million	10.1 million (actual)	10.1 million
Percentage of Ontario Parks customers satisfied with facilities and services provided	80%	80%	79% (actual)	79.5%
Percentage of Planning Area protected (measure to be discontinued after 2007-08)	10.3%	11.3%	11.3%	11.9%
Fish and Wildlife Management				
Percentage of eligible municipalities participating in Bear Wise programs	12%	27%	31%*** (actual)	65%

Performance Measures	2004-05 Achievement	2005-06 Achievement	2006-07 Target*	2007-08 Target
Fish and Wildlife Management – Cont'd				
Percentage of endangered species protected under the Endangered Species Act	64.5%	66.1%	56.0%**** (actual)	58.8%
Percentage of game wildlife, migratory game birds, commercial and sport fish with a conservation status of secure	80%	83%	85%	90%
Number of volunteers in, and the total number of volunteer hours contributed to, the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP) and the Ontario Stewardship Program	51,994 volunteers 400,841 hours	43,020 volunteers 373,204 hours	28,050 volunteers 296,000 hours	52,500 volunteers 454,000 hours
Geographic Information				
User satisfaction with accessibility and quality of information services	81%	83%	85%	83%
Lands and Waters Management				
Percentage completion of water budgets in the nineteen proposed source water protection watershed regions	0%	10%	60%	100%
New provincial renewable energy capacity approved for installation on Crown land as a percentage of the total provincial 2007 renewable energy target	3.3%	5.0%	9.9% (actual)	5.0%

Performance Measures	2004-05 Achievement	2005-06 Achievement	2006-07 Target*	2007-08 Target
Field Services Support				
Rate of compliance with resource laws and regulations	93.4%	93.4%	92.0%	93.0%
Acres of Green Space protected:				
• Number of acres of Green Space protected in Ontario	• 1,882,998 acres	• 1,882,998 acres	• 1,882,998 acres	• 1,882,998 acres
• Number of acres and total percentage of Ontario's land area regulated as National Park, Provincial Park, and Conservation Reserve	• 22,070,610 acres or 8.3%	• 23,329,705 acres or 8.8%	• 23,881,091 acres or 9.0%	• 23,819,376 acres or 9.0%
• Number of acres of existing Protected Areas where conservation has been enhanced	• 420,022 acres	• 1,679,118 acres	• 2,230,504 acres	• 2,563,771 acres
Aviation and Forest Fire Management				
Wildfire containment and suppression	99.5%	97.8%	95.1% (actual)	96.0%
Ministry Administration				
Percentage of internal business support costs to ministry program delivery costs	5%	5%	5%	5%

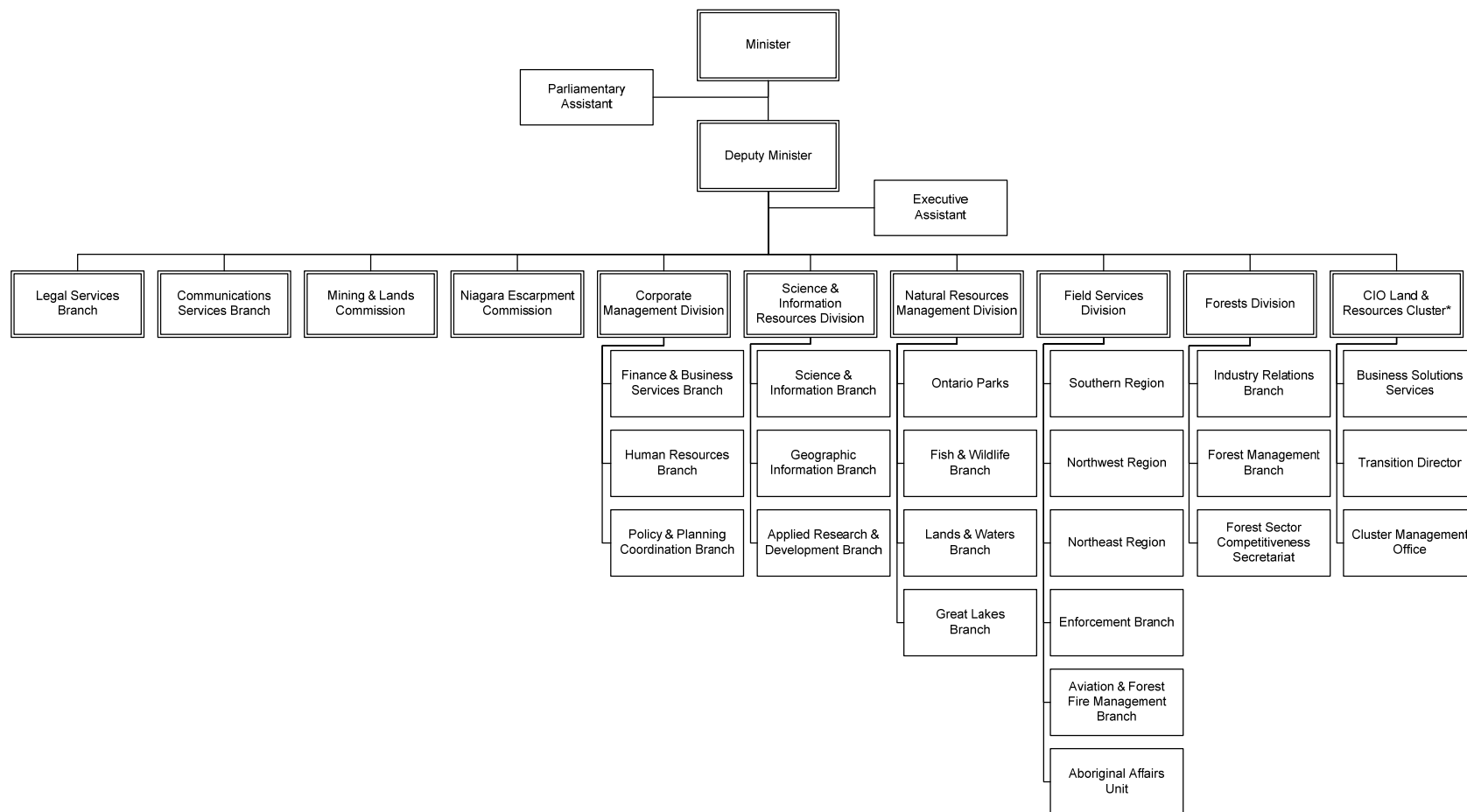
* With a few exceptions (marked as actual), 2006-07 achievement data were not available at time of printing.

** Targets and actuals for **Value-added Ontario forest products jobs per 1,000 cubic metres of provincial timber sales** are based on one-year-old data obtained from Statistics Canada.

*** The number of municipalities identified as being in bear country, and therefore "eligible", increased from 463 in 2005-06 to 577 in 2006-07.

**** The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and/or the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) complete annual assessments of additional Ontario species. As a result of these assessments, COSEWIC and COSSARO may recommend a change in the number of Ontario species eligible for regulation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In 2006-07 the number of Ontario species eligible for regulation under the ESA increased from 65 to 75. The 2006-07 actual result of 56.0 per cent and the 2007-08 target of 58.8 per cent both reflect this change.

Ministry Organization Chart



Effective April 1, 2007

* matrix reporting relationship to
MOE, OMAF and MNDM

Legislation

Aggregate Resources Act
Algonquin Forest Authority Act
Algonquin Provincial Park Extension Act, 1960-61
An Act for the Settlement of Certain Questions between Governments of Canada and Ontario Respecting Indian Reserve Lands, 1891
An Act to Confirm the Title of the Government of Canada to Certain Lands and Indians Lands, 1915
Arboreal Emblem Act
Avian Emblem Act
Beds of Navigable Waters Act
Conservation Authorities Act
Conservation Land Act
Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994
Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act, 2005
Endangered Species Act
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997
Fish Inspection Act
Fisheries Act (Canada) – Ontario Fishery Regulations
Fisheries Development Act (Canada)
Fisheries Loans Act
Forest Fires Prevention Act
Forestry Act
Forestry Workers Lien for Wages Act
Freshwater Fish Marketing Act (Ontario)
Gananoque Lands Act, 1961-62
Gas and Oil Leases Act
Heritage Hunting and Fishing Act, 2002
Indian Lands Act, 1924
Indian Lands Agreement Confirmation Act, 1989
Industrial and Mining Lands Compensation Act
Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act, 2003
Lac Seul Conservation Act, 1928
Lake of the Woods Control Board Act, 1922
Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act
Manitoba-Ontario Lake St. Joseph Diversion Agreement Authorization Act, 1958
Migratory Birds Convention Act (Canada) – Ontario Regulations
Mineral Emblem Act
Mining Act (s. 99, 100, 101, 102, 154)
Ministry of Natural Resources Act
Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act
North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve Act, 1962-63
Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act, 1997
Ontario Geographic Names Board Act
Ontario Harbours Agreement Act, 1962-63

Ottawa River Water Powers Act, 1943
Professional Foresters Act, 2000
Provincial Parks Act
Public Lands Act
Seine River Diversion Act, 1952
Steep Rock Iron Ore Development Act, 1949
Surveyors Act
Surveys Act
Water Transfer Control Act
Wild Rice Harvesting Act
Wilderness Areas Act

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

The Agencies, Boards and Commissions that report to the Ministry of Natural Resources are listed below with a brief summary.

Algonquin Forestry Authority

The Algonquin Forestry Authority is responsible for forest management, including timber harvesting, in Algonquin Park. The Authority sorts, sells and delivers harvested logs to regional mills. It also may advise on, undertake and carry out forestry, land-management and other programs and projects as the Minister may authorize.

Council of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors

The Council of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors regulates the practice of professional land surveying and governs the profession in accordance with the Surveyors Act, its regulations and bylaws.

Council of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association

The Ontario Professional Foresters Association regulates the practice of professional forestry, and all foresters must be members in order to practise in the province. The governing council manages, administers and oversees the functioning of the association.

Crown Timber Board of Examiners

The Crown Timber Board of Examiners sets written and practical examinations in wood measurement and recommends to the Minister candidates who are qualified to receive a scaler's licence.

Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission

Established under the Heritage Hunting and Fishing Act, the Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission makes recommendations to the Minister on ways to encourage people to value our fish and wildlife resources, promote more participation in conservation and other programs, and to search out new fish- and wildlife-related opportunities.

Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation

Established under the federal Freshwater Fish Marketing Act, the Corporation is the buyer, processor and marketer of freshwater fish from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwest Territories, and part of Northwestern Ontario (the area north and west of Thunder Bay). It markets and trades in fish, fish products and fish by-products for export abroad and among the provinces.

Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Management Advisory Board

The Board was established under the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act and provides advice to the Minister on the planning and management of the park.

Lake of the Woods Control Board

The Lake of the Woods Control Board regulates the water levels in the Lake of the Woods, Lac Seul and in the Winnipeg and English Rivers between the lake outlets and their confluence.

Niagara Escarpment Commission

The Niagara Escarpment Commission administers the provincial Niagara Escarpment Plan through promoting the objectives of the plan; processing and making decisions on development permit applications and making recommendations on plan amendments.

Ontario Geographic Names Board

The Ontario Geographic Names Board manages and defines the treatment of 80,000 official geographic names of places and geographic features in Ontario.

Ontario Moose-Bear Allocation Advisory Committee

The Ontario Moose-Bear Allocation Advisory Committee advises the Minister on the allocation of moose among tourist outfitters and on the issues arising from the allocation of black bear management areas of tourist operators.

Ontario Parks Board of Directors

The Directors of the Ontario Parks Board provide advice on planning, management and development of the provincial park system.

Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board

The Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board is a partnership among Canada, Quebec and Ontario to formulate and review policies that will lead to integrated management of the reservoirs in the Ottawa River basin.

Rabies Advisory Committee

The Rabies Advisory Committee advises on the scientific steps necessary for developing a successful rabies research and response program, which includes developing suitable vaccines and systems for vaccinating wild animal populations.

Rouge Park Alliance

The Alliance provides leadership and guidance to the park partners for their local activities within the park. Park partners include representatives of the provincial government, several municipal governments and a range of other parties and agencies.

Table 2: Expenditure and Revenue Data for Agencies, Boards, Commissions

Name	2007-08 Estimates		2006-2007 Interim Actuals	
	Expenditure \$	Revenue \$	Expenditure \$	Revenue \$
Algonquin Forestry Authority	26,727,000	26,317,000	27,292,000	26,997,000
Council of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors	22,000	0	13,846	0
Council of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association	8,000	0	8,300	0
Crown Timber Board of Examiners	10,000	750	0*	0
Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission	60,000	0	41,603	0
Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation	3,000	7,800	0	0
Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Management Advisory Board	20,000	0	19,400	0
Lake of the Woods Control Board	8,000	5,000,000	6,500	5,000,000
Niagara Escarpment Commission	2,186,924	0	2,180,535	14
Ontario Geographic Names Board	10,000	0	8,632	0
Ontario Moose-Bear Allocation Advisory Committee	30,000	0	19,770	0
Ontario Parks Board of Directors	20,000	0	19,000	0
Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board	39,875	17,250,000	33,797	16,677,503
Rabies Advisory Board	10,000	0	7,500	0
Rouge Park Alliance	0	0	0	0

*Only 18 candidates applied for the scaling course. Since the minimum number required is 40, the course was cancelled.

Note: Expenditure and revenue reported in this table are also reported as part of the Ministry's overall expenditure and revenue.

MINISTRY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following graph depicts the Ministry's planned 2007-08 expenditures by Program.

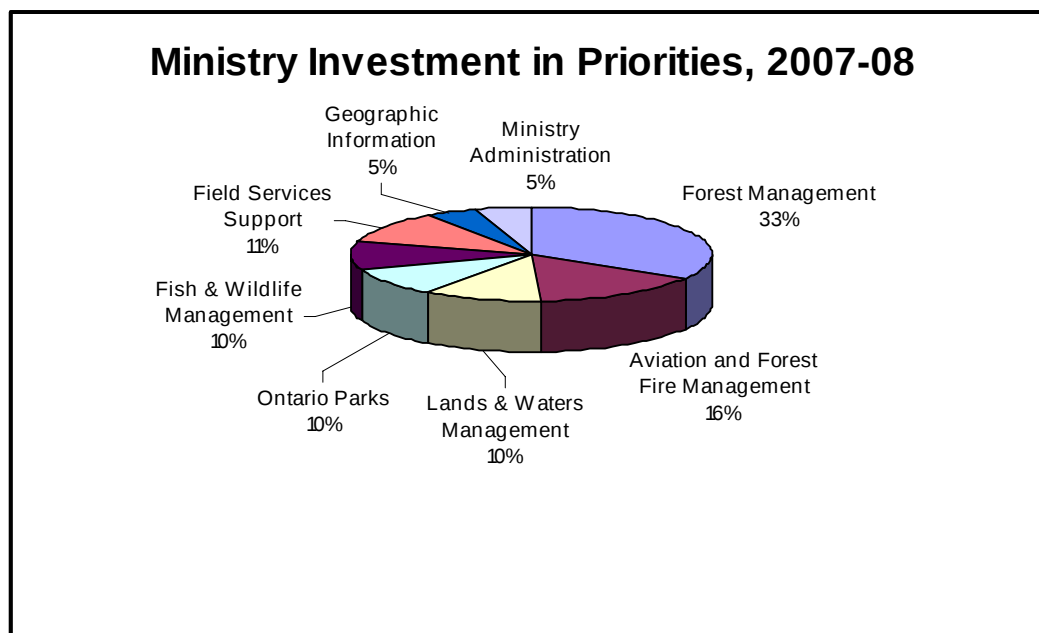


Table 3: Ministry Planned Expenditures by Program 2007/08

Program Name	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M)
Forest Management	\$223
Aviation and Forest Fire Management	\$105
Lands and Waters Management	\$69
Ontario Parks	\$66
Fish and Wildlife Management	\$67
Field Services Support	\$71
Geographic Information	\$31
Ministry Administration	\$34
Land and Resources Cluster (expends and recovers \$54 million for a net nil balance)	\$0
Total Planned Expenditures by Program	\$666*

*Total Planned Expenditures by Program amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Table 4: Ministry Planned Total Expenditures 2007/08

	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M)
Operating	\$666
Capital	\$60

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Table 5: Operating and Capital Summary by Vote

The Ministry envisions a healthy environment that is naturally diverse and supports a high quality of life for the people of Ontario through sustainable development.

The Ministry's mission is to manage our natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way to ensure that they are available for the enjoyment and use of future generations.

Ecological sustainability focuses on safeguarding the province's natural capital and nature's capacity to renew itself. It is directed towards resource management practices that protect and maintain nature's capacity to renew itself and generate sufficient natural "interest" to meet Ontarians' present and future needs.

Votes/Programs	Estimates 2007-08	Change from Estimates 2006-07	Change	Estimates 2006-07	Interim Actuals 2006-07	Actuals 2005-06
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING AND CAPITAL						
Ministry Administration	33,674,400	834,800	2.5	32,839,600	32,839,600	32,591,435
Geographic Information	31,458,700	(10,953,400)	(25.8)	42,412,100	42,412,100	33,598,091
Natural Resource Management	437,885,500	48,144,100	12.4	389,741,400	383,263,400	288,056,404
Public Safety and Emergency Response	105,509,300	3,505,500	3.4	102,003,800	178,403,800	155,555,360
Land and Resources Information and Information Technology Cluster	1,000	0	0.0	1,000	1,000	--
Total Including Special Warrants	608,528,900	41,531,000	7.3	566,997,900	636,919,900	509,802,290
Less: Special Warrants	--	--	n/a	--	--	--
Total to be voted	608,528,900	41,531,000	7.3	566,997,900	636,919,900	509,802,290
Add: Special Warrants	--	--	n/a	--	--	--
Add: Statutory Appropriations	5,458,799	2,200,355	67.5	3,258,444	3,258,444	2,095,326
Ministry Total Operating and Capital	613,987,699	43,731,355	7.7	570,256,344	640,178,344	511,897,616
Assets						
Geographic Information	--	(0)	(0.0)	--	--	108,949
Natural Resource Management	26,529,400	16,229,400	157.6	10,300,000	10,938,000	8,792,738
Public Safety and Emergency Response	100,000	(0)	(0.0)	100,000	100,000	89,970
Land and Resources Information and Information Technology Cluster	1,800,000	100,000	5.9	1,700,000	1,700,000	--
Total Assets to be Voted	28,429,400	16,329,400	135.0	12,100,000	12,738,000	8,991,657

APPENDIX

2005/06 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2006/07 ANNUAL REPORT

2005/06 Annual Report

In 2005-2006, MNR continued to defend Ontario's interests in Canada's softwood lumber dispute with the United States while seeking free and unfettered access to the U.S. market for Ontario's softwood lumber industry.

The ministry acted on the final report of the Minister's Council on Forest Sector Competitiveness by committing: \$350 million over five years in loan guarantees for new investment in value-added manufacturing, energy conservation and energy co-generation; \$150 million over three years in conditional grants to support new capital investments; \$75 million annually for the construction and maintenance costs of primary and secondary forest access roads; \$70 million in a one-time stumpage fee refund for 2005/06; phased in funding of \$10 million per year by 2007/08 to enhance the Forest Resource Inventory; \$3 million a year for three years to reduce timber fees for poplar veneer and white birch, beginning in 2006; \$1 million per year, beginning in 2006/07, in an Ontario Wood Promotion program to enhance value-added manufacturing. The Forest Sector Competitiveness Secretariat was set up to administer the prosperity fund and loan guarantee program.

Efforts to contribute to the development of clean, renewable energy sources have proceeded with the investment of \$771,000 in the construction of a portable bio-refinery to convert unused forest waste into a bio-oil. MNR also released an online wind-energy map on an interactive website to help promote wind power opportunities, and made Crown land sites available for waterpower development.

MNR launched Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy which will protect the province's rich natural heritage of plants, animals, and ecosystems. Developed by a broad range of contributors, including representatives of industry, environmental groups, government agencies and members of the public, the strategy recommends actions by government, non-government and private sector organizations to protect, and preserve our natural heritage and variety of life. An Ontario Biodiversity Council has been set up to guide the implementation of the strategy.

The province also moved forward on parts of the Biodiversity Strategy, including: creating a Greenbelt in the Golden Horseshoe area; reviewing parks and protected areas laws; and developing an invasive species strategy in consultation with federal, provincial and territorial governments. In partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, MNR launched the Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint for Biodiversity, which maps existing and potential conservation sites.

MNR initiated a streamlining of the number of fishing divisions across Ontario to better protect and enhance the quality of the recreational fishery. As well, the ministry

banned the possession of live invasive fish species and offered better protection to highly sensitive lakes that host lake trout.

Three more plant species were regulated under the Endangered Species Act, and protection for another species was expanded.

The ministry regulated 14 parks and 31 conservation reserves, adding 500,000 hectares to the parks and protected areas system.

Following extensive public consultation, MNR introduced new legislation to ensure the permanent protection and ecological integrity of Ontario's provincial parks and conservation reserves. The first overhaul of parks legislation in 50 years, the new Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act would be among the strongest in Canada.

MNR enhanced the Bear-Wise program by launching an electronic book to educate young people about bear facts and ways to avoid bear problems. Funding continued to be made available to communities in bear country to support community-based bear prevention, awareness and public education.

Consultations were completed on an agreement to protect Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin waters. Ontario Premier McGuinty joined Quebec and the eight Great Lakes states in signing the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement at the annual meeting of the Council of Great Lakes Governors in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

MNR supported the evacuation of 1,000 residents of Kashechewan by Emergency Management Ontario.

The ministry expanded the number of ministry products and services, including hunting and fishing licences, Ontario Parks Guides, and fishing and hunting regulations, which are available through Service Ontario/Government Information Centres across the province.

MNR provided more than 2,000 jobs to young people through six youth employment programs.

Table 1: Ministry Expenditures

	Ministry Actual Expenditures (\$M) 2005/06
Operating	\$577
Capital	\$51
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2006)	3617.7

2006/07 Annual Report

In 2006-2007, an agreement was signed between Canada and the United States to address the softwood lumber dispute. The ministry played a key role in the negotiations, and succeeded in enhancing Ontario's share of Canada's softwood lumber quota.

As part of its forest sector strategy, the government is making \$1 billion available through various programs to assist the forest sector over five years. In November, the \$140-million three-year Northern Pulp and Paper Electricity Transition program was announced as the latest in a series of efforts to boost the sector's competitiveness. Under the Forest Sector Prosperity Fund and the Loan Guarantee program, \$107 million in investment has been secured based on accumulated government support of about \$21.5 million.

The government provided \$2 million to the Trees Ontario Foundation for planting over one million trees to increase forest cover while sequestering greenhouse gases.

The new Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act received Royal Assent and awaits proclamation.

The ministry remained vigilant in its efforts to control fish and wildlife diseases. Monitoring showed no evidence of chronic wasting disease in the province, and measures were put in place to control the spread of viral hemorrhagic septicemia which affects fish. To protect the province's people and wildlife, the ministry began distributing a new breakthrough rabies vaccine and bait, an oral vaccine for skunks.

The Natural Spaces Land Acquisition and Stewardship program was put in place.

The first four State of Resources reports were released. State of Resources Reporting involves public reports that provide information on the health and management of our natural resources, while promoting citizen engagement.

Under the Northern Boreal Initiative, the ministry, together with Pikangikum First Nation, completed the first Aboriginal community-based land use plan with the approval of the Land Use Strategy for the Whitefeather Forest.

Ontario Parks became the first department of a provincial ministry in Ontario to receive Level 3 certification in the National Quality Institute Progressive Excellence Program, which measures and recognizes organizational excellence.

The Southern Ontario Land Resource Information System – a critical planning tool for southern Ontario - received an Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Recognition Award.

The ministry carried out extensive public consultation on the Endangered Species Act in order to update and strengthen the legislation that protects the province's native species at risk and their habitats. The Endangered Species Act, 2007, was introduced in the Legislature and would, if passed, make Ontario a North American leader in species at risk protection and recovery. The ministry's approach involves more effective legislation, programs and policies to implement the new legislation, and enhanced stewardship programs.

The Ministry of the Environment and MNR worked closely together on the development of legislation to protect provincial water resources for future generations. The proposed legislation would implement the historic Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, signed by Ontario, Quebec and the eight Great Lake states in December 2005. It would also allow the province, following consultation with stakeholders, to charge commercial and industrial users for the water they take and use.

The ministry continued to support the government's renewable energy commitments through Crown land commitments for wind, water and geothermal power, including land for a wind farm near Sault Ste. Marie.

MNR provided more than 2,100 jobs to young people through six youth employment programs.

Table 2: Ministry Expenditures

	Ministry Actual Expenditures (\$M) 2006/07
Operating	\$695
Capital	\$67
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2007)	3507.2

WHO TO CALL

Questions or comments about the ministry's Results-based Plan are welcomed.
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Further information about the ministry and its programs can be found on the ministry website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/.